



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
June 11, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Leslie Krongold, President
Karen Butter, Vice President
Ruth Belikove, Board Member
Alan Mitchell, Board Member
Mike Hartigan, Board Member

Absent: None

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so enacted or adopted on the Consent Calendar.

- A. *Report from Library Director highlighting Library Department activities for the month of June 2008. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of May 14, 2008. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the month of April 2008. Accepted.
- D. *Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2007-08 Library expenditures (by fund) through May 2008. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for ratification for the month of May 2008. Approved.

Vice President Butter asked about getting adult check-out up and more in-line with children's check-out numbers. Director Chisaki said that adult circulation statistics have risen a little, and, an adult summer reading program is planned for this year. Per an inquiry from President Krongold, Chisaki said that flyers have been sent around town to different businesses to post, the Library webpage has been updated, and press releases are being sent out to help advertise the program.

Board Member Hartigan asked about new borrower statistics, and referenced comments from a previous meeting about the number of records no longer in use dropping off the system. Chisaki said this is not a statistic we currently report, but it would probably be available so she will check on it.

Board Member Belikove had a question about the LEED certification, and wondered why the Library hadn't chosen to install solar panels if that would provide extra points. Board Member Hartigan explained that the initial outlay is tremendously expensive and would only result in one LEED point. Hartigan had also been in favor of solar paneling; however, it turned out to be unfeasible.

President Krongold asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Mitchell so moved; Vice President Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Marc Lambert asked about the result of the "Free2" campaign, as he doesn't see it anywhere but inside the Library now. Director Chisaki said the campaign runs for 12-18 months; small pieces are now being filmed to put on television, so they are still working to get the word out. We are waiting for Free2 screensavers to be uploaded onto the public computers, and the on-line contest received thousands of entries which are still being processed. Lambert then asked about how Measure H would affect the Library, and Director Chisaki said it would not have any significant impact on programs or services. Classes that might be lost at school, such as music or sports, are not something the Library would offer, so we can't help them in that respect.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers (L. Krongold)

President Krongold opened the floor to nominations for Board President. Vice President Butter nominated Member Belikove; Member Mitchell seconded the nomination. Belikove accepted and was unanimously approved by the Board. Krongold then asked for nominations for Vice President. Butter nominated Member Hartigan; Belikove seconded the nomination. Hartigan accepted and was unanimously approved by the Board. Incoming President Belikove asked outgoing President Krongold to continue to run the meeting for the remainder of the evening.

B. Strategic Planning Committee Update (M. Hartigan)

Member Hartigan did not have any comments, so turned the floor over to Director Chisaki for an update. Chisaki said that Library staff has continued to work on goals and objectives. These are currently in draft form, but will be firmed up the following week, then sent on to consultant Ruth Metz who will report back at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting coming up on June 24. Consultant Kathy Page has finished up her stakeholder and focus group meetings, and will give a verbal report at the June 24 meeting as well. Member Butter asked what specific recommendations might be from Page. Chisaki said Page will advise things such as the number of square feet that the branches would need to add, or the number of computer stations needed to meet population demands, etc. There will be both a short and long-range plan, and the finalized report will be presented to City Council at their first meeting in August.

Director Chisaki had invited the consultants to the July Board meeting to present their information, but Member Butter expressed that there may not be enough time in a regular board meeting to give the attention needed for this discussion. The rest of the Board agreed, so it was suggested that a special meeting be held prior to the regular meeting. Tentative dates were discussed, and as soon as Chisaki follows up with the consultants, Recording Secretary Merrick will contact the Board and firm up a date for the special meeting.

C. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

President Belikove talked about the current exhibit by Alameda Women Artists being displayed in the Community Meeting Rooms. The opening had been the previous Friday, and was very well attended. The Art Exhibit Committee had met the previous afternoon, and talked about putting together a press packet of information for future group showings. The committee will continue this discussion at their next meeting in July, and try to come up with more publicity ideas to get the word out.

Director Chisaki inquired if future artists would want their displays limited to just the Community Meeting Rooms, as this had caused a few problems for staff, and, with meetings being held in the rooms during the showing. Belikove said the next group coming in will have a textile exhibit and they would like to utilize the wall space on the second floor for their display. Belikove said that the committee is still in its learning stages of finding out what works and what does not, and will proceed accordingly with future exhibitions.

D. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

Member Mitchell did not have a report, and Director Chisaki said the next meeting of the Foundation would be the following Monday. Marc Lambert had information about required annual participation by Foundation Board members, i.e. making monetary donations, and getting this stipulation written into the by-laws. The special event with author Michael Pollan is still under discussion. The venue needs to be confirmed first so the Foundation can pin-down Pollan to a date for the event.

E. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Lambert)

Marc Lambert reported that the Friends did not meet last month because both the President and Vice President were out of town. The July meeting has been pushed out one week due to another meeting that will conflict with the Friends regular meeting date and time. The Friends will take author Cara Black out to dinner prior to her program on June 19, so if there is interest, let Donna Vaughn know.

F. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

There were no speak-outs to report on, however, Director Chisaki did have an inquiry that came through the City website about making the Quiet Reading Room a designated cell-phone use room. Chisaki had responded that there is a quiet reading area because the community had been polled through focus groups etc. and their desire was to have this type of space available. The option for cell-phone users would be to talk in the teen room on the second floor, or go outside to either the front of the Library or in the back patio area to have their conversations.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Outgoing President Krongold talked about her 8 years on the Board and how much she had appreciated the experience. She had worked in an elementary school library when she was young, and had fond memories of that time, so jumped in to join the Alameda Free Library Board when the opportunity presented itself. Incoming President Belikove thanked Krongold for all her many contributions, wished her all the best, and encouraged her to continue her community service. Krongold then shared that she had recently become the Education Liaison for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), who she has worked with for some time now. Member Butter seconded the comments made by Belikove, and thanked Krongold for her excellent service and contributions over the years. One of Krongold's favorite memories will always be shaking the little children's hands as they crossed the stage during the End of Summer Reading Program Celebration.

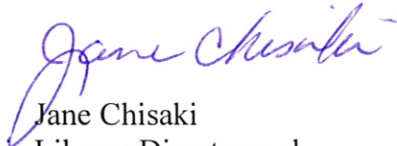
DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Chisaki first read a resolution of appreciation prepared for Krongold, and signed by the rest of the Board members. Chisaki went on to give a brief update on the City's budget situation, noting that there would be a reduction in open hours and part-time staffing dollars. This, in conjunction with a \$5,000 reduction in the materials budget, and minimal cuts across other categories, will enable the Library to realize the 8% cut required. The open hour's reduction will take place at both the Main and the branch locations. The official budget hearing before City Council will be on Tuesday, June 17th.

ADJOURNMENT

Outgoing President Krongold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Vice President Hartigan so moved; Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Chisaki
Library Director and
Secretary to the Library Board